

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 262954

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:LMATTESON

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FOLL REPEAT CAIRO 9640 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI JIDDA

KUWAIT MANAMA MUSCAT TEHRAN COMIDEASTFOR 27 NOV 74

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 9640

KUWAIT PASS DOHA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS CRITICAL OF CONSTELLATION IN GULF

REF: CAIRO 9507

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: CAIRO PRESS EQUATES PRESENCE OF CONSTELLATION IN GULF WITH OUTMODED IMPERIALISTIC "BIG STICK" DIPLOMACY, WARNING THAT ARABS WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED. PAPERS LINK EXERCISE WITH POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR US OCCUPATION GULF OIL FIELDS. END SUMMARY.

1. AHRAH AND AKHBAR NOV 27 ARE EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF EXCUR-

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PAGE 02 STATE 262954

SION OF CONSTELLATION AND "GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYERS" INTO

GULF.

2. AHRAH'S EDITORIAL, TITLED "THIS IS NOT THE WAY", RECALLS NEWSWEEK ARTICLE WHICH ALLEGEDLY QUOTED STATEMENT BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER IN WHICH "HE DID NOT RULE OUT USG WIELDING BIG STICK IN ARABS' DIRECTION, PARTICULARLY AT OIL PRODUCERS". PAPER QUOTES SECDEF FURTHER AS HAVING ALLEGEDLY SAID USG HOLDS SEVERAL CARDS INCLUDING REVIEW OF ARMS DEALS WITH ARABS AND IRAN, ACCELERATING ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL, AND "CONCENTRATING 60 UNIT NAVAL FORCES IN GULF." PAPER ALLEGES SECRETARY KISSINGER TEN DAYS AGO REFUSED "ANY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE UNDERSTANDING WITH OIL PRODUCERS," CHOOSING RATHER TO CALL FOR CONFERENCE OF CONSUMERS TO DETERMINE UNIFIED STRATEGY, THUS "REJECTING GISCARD INITIATIVE TO HOLD JOINT PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE". USG MOVEMENT IN GULF, PAPER CONTINUES, COMES AFTER MANY REFERENCES IN AMERICAN PRESS TO OPTIONS FOR MEETING ENERGY CRISIS, INCLUDING DIRECT INTERVENTION, COVERT OPERATIONS, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE. CIA DIRECTOR COLBY, SPEAKING A FEW DAYS AGO "AFFIRMED" USG DOES NOT RULE OUT "DE-STABILIZING OPERATION" WHENEVER EXPEDIENT.

2. ABOVE, IN VIEW OF AHRAH, REPRESENTS OTHER FACE OF AMERICAN POLICY AT TIME PRESIDENT FORD LAUDS DETENTE WITH USSR. PAPER NOTES USG SIX WEEKS AGO RENEWED BUNKERING OPERATION FACILITIES WITH BAHRAIN AND ANNOUNCED THAT OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL WILL NOT IN FUTURE ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES OF OCTOBER 23, 1973. "AMERICA CANNOT COMBINE COLD WAR POLICY OF THE CUDGEL WITH ITS TALK OF DETENTE. IT CANNOT PRETEND TO WANT IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH ARABS WHILE UNDERTAKING HOSTILE MOVES IN THE REGION AND SUCCORING ARAB ENEMIES."

3. AKHBAR'S EDITORIAL, "WHAT ARE BEHIND THOSE MOVES", SUGGESTS MOVEMENT OF CONSTELLATION MAY BE PART OF U.S. CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE OIL PRICES BY THREATENING PRODUCERS, TO HELP ISRAEL INDIRECTLY BY INTIMIDATING ARABS, TO REDUCE EFFICACY OF OIL WEAPON IN FUTURE ARMED CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL, OR IT IS RECONNAISSANCE OPERATION TO PREPARE FOR CONTINGENCY WHEN US MAY DECIDE TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN ARAB OIL FIELDS. WHATEVER THE TRUTH, "THOSE BEHIND THESE AMERICAN MOVES IGNORE BASIC REALITIES... THAT GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY HAS HAD ITS DAY AND IS NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 262954

LONGER A BOGEY MAN TO INTIMIDATE OTHER STATES."

4. AKHBAR COLUMNIST MUHAMED ZAKI RECALLS "RECENT TALK ABOUT ACTUAL OR THREATENED MILITARY INTERVENTION" IN OIL-RICH ARAB GULF, AND WONDERS WHETHER THERE IS LINK BETWEEN AMERICAN TALK OF "BIG STICK" AND CONSTELLATION VISIT. END UNCLASSIFIED

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5. COMMENT: TWO HOUR LEAD TIME WHICH WE WERE GIVEN TO INFORM GOE OF ENTRY CONSTELLATION AND TWO DESTROYERS INTO GULF WAS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR US TO GET ADVANCE WORD TO GOE. IF SIMILAR EXERCISE IS CONTEMPLATED IN FUTURE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ALLOWING US AT LEAST 24 HOUR LEAD TIME.

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## Message Attributes

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